Death of Indians in hotel collapse in Singapore

1308. DR. SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indian national who died in Singapore in the recent hotel collapse there;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid by the Singapore Government to the next of kin of the victims; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) According to available information, one Indian national, Smt. Durga Devi, wife of one Mr. Ram Narain Rati Ram Pandey, a Singapore national, working as a watchman in the same hotel, was killed in the hotel collapse in Singapore on 15th March, 1986.

(b) and (c) No compensation has been paid so far by the Singapore Government to the next of kin. An amount of Singapore $ 2000 has, however, been paid as immediate relief to the family by the Singapore Council of Social Service. The Singapore Government has set up a Commission of Enquiry to look into the causes of collapse. Since the hotel was not insured, the question of compensation has been put off till the enquiry is completed by the Commission.

Co-ordination by the Ministry of Defence with the Ministry of Home Affairs in Border Security

1309. DR. SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the Ministry of Defence are co-ordinating with the Ministry of Home Affairs in intelligence activities and in border security along the Indo-Pak borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): Yes, Sir.

Manufacture of V.C.R's.

1310. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the policy decisions taken by Government from time to time since 1980 and dates thereof regarding licensing/approval for manufacture of Video Cassette Recorders;

(b) how have these policies been implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that such series of policy shifts have resulted in one private company becoming the sole licensing manufacturer of Video Cassette Recorders;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct any enquiry into the circumstances and manner in which this company was allowed to have monopoly and also to fix responsibilities on the concerned officials; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Industrial approvals were issued during 1980—82 to a number of parties for producing VCRs, with a capacity of 500 numbers per annum, both in the small scale and organised sectors. Government announced Integrated Policy Measures on Electronics on 21-3-1985, in which it was *inter-alia* proposed that the Department of Electronics or its designated